

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

It is obvious that this is an attempt to provide one-sided information in an effort to affect the upcoming presidential election. Before this action, I was undecided about the effect of media consolidation in the U.S., now I am sure that it has gone too far. One business can affect the election through its 62 separate TV stations. We need to increase regulation of broadcast media and reduce the limit on the number of TV and radio stations controlled by a single person or group.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

--Timothy Stiles